Compline and Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

(The first week of Great Lent)

The priest, wearing his stole, opens the curtain
and comes through the deacon's door to the place in front of the Royal Doors on the Ambo.

PRIEST: Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

READER: Amen. Glory to You, our God! Glory to You!
O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things; Treasury of blessings and Giver of Life: Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us! (3 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

PRIEST: For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

READER: Amen. Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

Come, let us worship God, our King! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

The priest moves to the icon of Christ in the middle of the church.

Psalm 70

Hasten, O God, to save me; O Lord, come quickly to help me. May those who seek my life be put to shame and confusion; may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace. May those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!" turn back because of their shame. But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation always say, "Let God be exalted!" Yet I am poor and needy; come quickly to me, O God. You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay.

THE GREAT CANON OF SAINT ANDREW OF CRETE

Psalm 4

READER:

Answer me when I call to you, O my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer. How long, O men, will you turn my glory into shame? How long will you love delusions and seek false gods? Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself; the Lord will hear when I call to him. In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent. Offer right sacrifices and trust in the Lord. Many are asking, "Who can show us any good?" Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord. You have filled my heart with greater joy than when their grain and new wine abound. I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 6

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am faint; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are in agony. My soul is in anguish. How long, O Lord, how long? Turn, O Lord, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love. No one remembers you when he is dead. Who praises you from the grave? I am worn out from groaning; all night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears. My eyes grow weak with sorrow; they fail because of all my foes. Away from me, all you who do evil, for the Lord has heard my weeping. The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer. All my enemies will be ashamed and dismayed; they will turn back in sudden disgrace.

Psalm 13

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? Look on me and answer, O LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death; my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall. But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, for he has been good to me.

Psalm 25

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse. Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD. Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant. For the sake of your name, O LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great. Who, then, is the man that fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way chosen for him. He will spend his days in prosperity, and his descendants will inherit the land. The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them. My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only he will release my feet from the snare. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. The troubles of my heart have multiplied; free me from my anguish. Look upon my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins. See how my enemies have increased and how fiercely they hate me! Guard my life and rescue me; let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in you. Redeem Israel, O God, from all their troubles!

Psalm 31

In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me. Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me. Free me from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O LORD , the God of truth. I hate those who cling to

worthless idols; I trust in the LORD. I will be glad and rejoice in your love, for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul. You have not handed me over to the enemy but have set my feet in a spacious place. Be merciful to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and my body with grief. My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak. Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors; I am a dread to my friends -- those who see me on the street flee from me. I am forgotten by them as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery. For I hear the slander of many; there is terror on every side; they conspire against me and plot to take my life. But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me. Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love. Let me not be put to shame, O LORD, for I have cried out to you; but let the wicked be put to shame and lie silent in the grave. Let their lying lips be silenced, for with pride and contempt they speak arrogantly against the righteous. How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you. In the shelter of your presence you hide them from the intrigues of men; in your dwelling you keep them safe from accusing tongues. Praise be to the LORD, for he showed his wonderful love to me when I was in a besieged city. In my alarm I said, "I am cut off from your sight!" Yet you heard my cry for mercy when I called to you for help. Love the LORD, all his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full. Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD.

Psalm 91

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. If you make the Most High your dwelling -- even the Lord, who is my refuge -- then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you

will not strike your foot against a stone. You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent. "Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to You, O God!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to You, O God!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to You, O God!

PRIEST:

God is with us! Understand all nations and submit yourselves, for God is with us!

CHOIR:

God is with us! Understand all nations and submit yourselves, for God is with us!

For God is with us! (the choir repeats this verse as the priest continues . . .)

PRIEST:

Hear this, even to the uttermost ends of the earth/ Submit yourselves, all you who are mighty/ If you again arise in your might, again you will be overthrown/ If any plot together, the Lord will destroy them/ And the word which you shall speak shall not abide in you/ For we do not fear your terror, neither are we troubled/ But we will ascribe holiness to the Lord our God, and Him alone we will fear/ And if I put my trust in Him, He will be my sanctification/ Therefore, I will set my hope on Him, and through Him will I be saved/ Behold – I will be saved along with the children whom God has given me/ The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light/ and the light has shined on those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death/ For unto us a son is born, unto us a child is given/ And the government shall be upon his shoulder/ And there shall be no end to His peace/ And His name shall be called the great Council of the Angels: Wonderful! Counselor! The Mighty God! The Everlasting Father! The Prince of Peace! The Father of

the world to come!/ Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit/ now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

God is with us! Understand all nations and submit yourselves, for God is with us!

CHOIR:

God is with us! Understand all nations and submit yourselves, for God is with us!

READER:

The day is past. I thank You, O Lord. I entreat You, grant that I will not fall into sin this evening -- and save me, O Savior.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

The day is past. I sing praises to You, O Master. I entreat You, that throughout this evening and night I may remain faithful and be delivered from deceit -- and save me, O Savior.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The day is past. I sing hymns to You, O Holy One. I entreat You, that this evening and night I will be delivered from all temptation -- and save me, O Savior.

CHOIR:

With unceasing songs the Angelic Powers of the Cherubim glorify You! The six-winged Seraphim exceedingly extol You with never-ending voices. The Host of Angels praise You with the song: "Holy! Holy! Holy!" For You are the Father before all ages, and You have with You Your Son who is from all eternity; You also have with You the Spirit of Life, equal in divinity and honor. You have revealed to us the Trinity without division or confusion. O most holy Virgin – Theotokos and the Mother of our God – along with all of you eye-witnesses and servants of the Word, with the company of the Prophets and the Martyrs, who have attained life eternal: Pray zealously for us, for we are in dire need. Through your prayers and intercessions for us, we will be delivered from the trickery of the Evil One, and we will sing the Angelic song: "Holy! Holy! Holy! Thrice-Holy Lord, have mercy on us and save us. Amen."

ALL:

I believe in one God, the FATHER almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the SON of God, the only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; whose Kingdom shall have no end. And in the HOLY SPIRIT, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. In one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The priest moves to the Ambo, before the Royal Doors

PRIEST:

All-holy Sovereign Lady – Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary – pray for us sinners.

CHOIR:

O all-holy Sovereign Lady – Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary – pray for us sinners.

PRIEST:

All you heavenly Host of Angels and Archangels, pray for us sinners.

CHOIR:

All you heavenly Host of Angels and Archangels, pray for us sinners.

PRIEST:

Holy John – Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptizer of our Lord Jesus Christ – pray for us sinners.

CHOIR:

Holy John – Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptizer of our Lord Jesus Christ – pray for us sinners.

PRIEST:

Holy and glorious Apostles, Prophets, Martyrs, and all Saints, pray for us sinners.

CHOIR:

Holy and glorious Apostles, Prophets, Martyrs, and all Saints, pray for us sinners.

PRIEST:

Our reverend and God-loving Fathers, Pastors, and Ecumenical Teachers, pray for us sinners.

CHOIR:

Our reverend and God-loving Fathers, Pastors, and Ecumenical Teachers, pray for us sinners.

PRIEST:

Invincible, ineffable, and divine power of the honorable and life-giving Cross, do not forsake us sinners.

CHOIR:

Invincible, ineffable, and divine power of the honorable and life-giving Cross, do not forsake us sinners.

PRIEST:

O God, cleanse us sinners.

CHOIR:

O God, cleanse us sinners.

PRIEST:

O God, cleanse us sinners.

CHOIR:

O God, cleanse us sinners.

PRIEST:

O God, cleanse us sinners and have mercy on us.

CHOIR:

O God, cleanse us sinners and have mercy on us.

The priest returns to the Sanctuary.

Monday & Wednesday evenings

CHOIR: Tone 2

O Christ my God, illumine my eyes that I do not sleep unto death; lest my enemies say that they have prevailed against me.

READER:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

CHOIR: Tone 2

O God, be the defender of my soul, for I walk through a multitude of snares. Deliver me from them and save me, O Good One, for You love mankind.

READER:

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

CHOIR: Tone 2

O Virgin Birth-giver of God, since we have no boldness because of our many iniquities, make a fervent supplication on our behalf to the Lord who was

born of you. Truly, the prayers of a mother avail greatly unto the compassion of the Master. All-pure One, do not despise the petitions of us sinners; for He who suffered for us is gracious and mighty in bringing us to salvation.

Tuesday & Thursday evenings

CHOIR: Tone 8

O Lord my Creator, You know the temptations that come upon me from my invisible enemies who continually assail me, and You know how frail I am in the flesh. Therefore, I commit my spirit into Your hands. Cover me with the protection of Your goodness, that I may not enter into the sleep of death. Enlighten the eyes of my spiritual understanding, that I may delight in Your divine words. In a time that is acceptable to You, lead me to glorify You in praise as the only Good One who loves mankind.

READER:

Look upon me, O Lord my God, and attend to my cry.

CHOIR: Tone 8

O Lord, how awesome is Your Judgment, when the angels will assemble and all people will be brought before You. Then the books will be opened and all deeds will be revealed and judged; all thoughts and secrets will be exposed. What judgment shall come upon me, a sinner born into sin? Who will save me from the fire of eternal condemnation? Who will enlighten my darkness? Who will show mercy on me, if not You – O Lord – because of Your love for mankind?

READER:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

CHOIR: Tone 8

Grant me tears of repentance, O God, as those of the sinful woman who came to You and washed your feet with her tears. Grant that I may wash Your feet which delivered me from the path of straying away. Grant that my life may be purified through repentance and become a sweet-smelling incense before You. So I may also hear Your voice saying: "Your faith has saved you, go in peace."

READER:

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

CHOIR: Tone 8

O Theotokos, Birth-giver of God, I am not ashamed and have hope that I shall be saved, for I have you as an intercessor before the Savior. Therefore, O All-Pure One, I will not be afraid. I will pursue my enemies and put them to flight with your protection and powerful aid. I fervently cry to you and implore your intercessions saying: "O Lady, save my through your prayers, and raise me up from the gloomy slumber of sin to glorify you in song, by the might of the Son of God who – through you – was made flesh."

READER:

Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word; true Theotokos we magnify you!

In the name of the Lord, Father bless.

PRIEST:

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers and Mothers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

READER:

Amen.

Prayer of Saint Basil the Great

O God – Father Almighty -- You deliver us from all the arrows that fly during the day, also deliver us from all evil things that dwell in the darkness. Accept our evening prayer and sacrifice as we lift up our hands to You. Grant that we may pass through the course of this night without sin, that we not be tempted by evil thoughts; and deliver us from every temptation and despair that comes to us from the Evil One. Grant to our souls a spirit of repentance and to our minds the remembrance of Your just Day of Judgment. Nail our flesh to the awe of Your glory, and cleanse our bodies. In the silence of sleep, may we be enlightened by the vision of Your judgments. Remove from us every impure imagination and harmful desire of the flesh. Raise us up in the morning fortified in the faith, and advancing in the way of Your

commandments; through the mercy and goodness of Your Only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, O Father, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship God, our King! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the innermost place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem. Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Psalm 102

Hear my prayer, O LORD; let my cry for help come to you. Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress. Turn your ear to me; when I call, answer me quickly. For my days vanish like smoke; my bones burn like glowing embers. My heart is blighted and withered like grass; I forget to eat my food. Because of my loud groaning I am reduced to skin and bones. I am like a desert owl, like an owl among the ruins. I lie awake; I have become like a bird alone on a roof. All day long my enemies taunt me; those who rail against me use my name as a curse. For I eat ashes as my food and mingle

my drink with tears because of your great wrath, for you have taken me up and thrown me aside. My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass. But you, O LORD, sit enthroned forever; your renown endures through all generations. You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her; the appointed time has come. For her stones are dear to your servants; her very dust moves them to pity. The nations will fear the name of the LORD, all the kings of the earth will revere your glory. For the LORD will rebuild Zion and appear in his glory. He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea. Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the LORD: "The LORD looked down from his sanctuary on high, from heaven he viewed the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death." So the name of the LORD will be declared in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem when the peoples and the kingdoms assemble to worship the LORD. In the course of my life he broke my strength; he cut short my days. So I said: "Do not take me away, O my God, in the midst of my days; your years go on through all generations. In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. But you remain the same, and your years will never end. The children of your servants will live in your presence; their descendants will be established before you."

The priest comes before the icon of Christ, standing at the Ambo

PRIEST:

The Prayer of Manasses

The priest returns to the Sanctuary

CHOIR:

Tone 6

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us. For we sinners, void of all defense, offer to You this supplication as to our Master: “Have mercy on us.”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have put our trust in You. Do not be exceedingly angry with us, neither call to remembrance our iniquities; but look upon us now in Your loving-kindness, and deliver us from our enemies. For You are our God and we are Your people; we are all the work of Your hands and we call upon Your name.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Open the door of your loving-kindness to us, O blessed Theotokos. In that we have set our hope on you, may we not fail; but through you may we be delivered from adversities. For you are the salvation of all Christian people.

READER:

O Sovereign Master: God, the Father Almighty; Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit. One Godhead, one Power: have mercy on me, a sinner; and by means which are known to You, save me – Your unworthy servant. For You are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Doxology

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among all people! We hymn You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory. O Lord King, heavenly God, Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father -- You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us. You take away the sins of the world: receive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of the Father: have mercy on us. For You only are holy, You only are the Lord -- Jesus Christ -- to the glory of God the Father. Amen! Every day will I bless You, and I will praise Your name forever; yes, forever and ever. Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said, "Lord, be merciful to me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You." Lord, I have fled to You; teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light shall we see light. O continue Your mercy unto them that know You.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen. Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on You. Blessed are You, O Lord: teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Master: make me to understand Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Holy One: enlighten me with Your statutes. Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever. Do not despise not the works of Your hands. To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The priest comes before the Royal Doors on the Ambo

CHOIR:

Praise God in His holiness; praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Refrain: O Lord of Hosts, be with us; for beside You we have no other helper in adversity. Have mercy on us, O Lord of Hosts.

Praise Him in His noble acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness.

Praise Him in the sound of the trumpet; praise Him upon the lute and harp.

Praise Him with cymbals and dances; praise Him upon the strings and pipe.

Praise Him upon well-tuned cymbals; praise Him with loud cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Praise God in His holiness; praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Lord, if we did not have Your saints as our intercessors ... and Your gracious loving-kindness which bestows mercy on us ... how could we presume to sing to You, O Savior? How could we sing to You, Whom the Angels glorify with unceasing songs of praise? Spare our souls, O Lord, who knows our hearts.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Birth-giver of God, great is the multitude of my transgression. O Pure One, I flee to you seeking salvation. Visit my feeble soul and pray to your Son and our God, that He will grant me the remission of the terrible deeds I have done – O Only-blessed One.

All-holy Birth-giver of God, do not forsake me. Do not give me over to the protection of sinners, but defend me and have mercy on me.

O Mother of God, I put my whole trust in you. Keep me under your protection.

PRIEST:

The Prayer of Saint Ephraim the Syrian

READER:

Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us! (3 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

PRIEST: For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

PRIEST:

Prayer before the icon of the Theotokos

O Virgin, pure, spotless, incorrupt, undefiled, and all-pure; O Bride of God and Sovereign Lady, who united the Word of God with humanity through your most glorious birth-giving and has set free the sinful nature of our race that it might be yoked to that which is heavenly. You are the sole hope of the hopeless, the helper of those who are assailed, a speedy defender of those who flee to you and the refuge of all Christians. Do not despise me, a sinner polluted by shameful thoughts, words, and deeds. Look upon me as one who has, through laziness of soul and mind, become a slave of sin and the worldly cares of life. But, since you are the Mother of the God who loves mankind, mercifully have compassion on me -- a sinner and a prodigal. Accept my prayer offered from impure lips. And exercising your maternal boldness, intercede with your Son and our God – our Master and Lord – that He will open to me the compassionate loving-kindness of His goodness and disregard

my sinfulness while turning me to repentance. Pray that He will show me to be a well-skilled doer of His commandments. And be ever present with me; for you are a fervent intercessor and helper who, in this present life, repels the assaults of adversaries while leading me to salvation and, at the hour of death, cares diligently for my soul. May I be delivered from eternal judgement and be manifested as an heir of the glorious kingdom of your Son and our God. All of which I shall obtain, O Lady and Theotokos, by your help; through the mercy and love toward mankind of your only-begotten Son – our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ – to whom is due all glory, honor and worship, together with His Father from everlasting, and His all-holy, good, and life-giving Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer before the icon of our Lord

And grant to me, O Master, as I prepare for sleep, repose both of body and soul. Preserve me from the gloomy slumber of sin, and from every dark and impure temptation. Calm the impulses of carnal desires and quench the fiery darts of the Evil One craftily directed against me. Ease the rebellions of my flesh. Soothe my earthly and material anxieties. And grant to me, O Lord, a watchful mind, a pure reasoning, a sober heart and sleep free from every vision of evil. Raise me up again in the morning, strengthened in Your precepts and holding steadfastly within me the memory of Your commandments. Grant that through this night I may sing praises to You, and that I may hymn, bless, and glorify Your all-holy and majestic name – Lord Jesus Christ – together with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

A final Prayer before the icon of the Theotokos

O exceedingly glorious, ever-virgin Mother of Christ our God, bear our petitions unto Your Son and our God, and implore Him to save our souls.

The Father is my hope! The Son is my refuge! The Holy Spirit is my protector! O Holy Trinity, glory to You!

The priest faces the people

Bless me, brothers and sisters in Christ; and forgive me, a sinner.

ALL: May God forgive you, Father.

PRIEST:

Let us pray for the Bishops of the Orthodox Church, priests, deacons, monastics and all of the faithful.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. (repeated after the following petitions)

For the good estate and strengthening of the Holy Orthodox Church in our land and everywhere.

For civil authorities, those who serve in the government and in the armed forces.

For those who love us and those who hate us.

For those who are kind to us and help us.

For those who have asked us to pray for them, although we are unworthy.

For our departed fathers, mothers, loved ones and friends who lie asleep in the Lord; that they may be granted rest eternal in blessed repose.

For peace, health, assistance, and furtherance in all good things for the servants of God of this community and for their salvation.

For those who are in sickness, suffering or affliction of body, mind or spirit.

For peaceful times and the abundance of the fruits of the earth.

Let us say also for ourselves.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

READER:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word; true Theotokos we magnify you!

In the name of the Lord, Father bless.

The priest faces the people, and kneels before them:

PRIEST:

Forgive, O Lord, those who hate us and those who have wronged us. Do well unto those who do well. Grant those things leading unto salvation and eternal life. Visit the afflicted and the sick with Your healing of soul and body. Guide those who travel. Remember in Your loving-kindness those who have asked us to pray for them. Remember our departed brethren. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Remember those who labor and offer gifts in Your holy churches. Remember those in need of material or spiritual blessings. Grant them, and all of us, the petitions that lead unto salvation. Remember me also, O Lord, Your humble and unworthy servant. Illumine my mind with the light of Your wisdom, and guide me in the way of Your commandments. Through the prayers of the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; and through the prayers of all Your saints, for You are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.